

FORMAL COMMUNICATION

TO: **WIB Directors**
 Program Directors

FROM: **William R. Miller, Director**
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Workforce Investment Act – Technical Assistance Bulletin **WIA – TAB 2005-007**

Documentation Requirements – Katrina Victims

The following clarification is provided in providing services to those who were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Services are not to be denied because of a lack of documentation.

WorkOne Services

Basic core services, including Wagner-Peyser funded services, can and should be provided to Katrina victims just as they can be to the general public. For these services, there are no residential requirements and no eligibility requirements.

For additional services beyond basic core services, a Katrina victim would need to be registered as a WIA participant and determined eligible for intensive and training services. Eligibility requirements for the Adult WIA program, however, are very minimal and limited to being 18 years or older, having registered with Selective Service, and being authorized to work in the United States.

Many victims will not have the standard documentation with them to verify their identity and their eligibility for services. You are asked to not deny needed services for the lack of documentation. For the Katrina victims in Indiana needing WIA services, the Department of Workforce Development is lessening the documentation requirements for citizenship/ability to work and identify (birth date/age) - victims do not need documentation items at the point of registration for WIA; however, Katrina victims do

need to apply for duplicate copies of documents needed for eligibility determination during the registration process. (Staff should also assist victims to apply for duplicate copies of any unrelated documents.) Please have Katrina victims complete the self-certification form (attached), indicating they are a victim of Katrina and are applying for replacement documents. Please note that by the end of Program Year 2005, each local area will need to go back and sample to ensure accurate eligibility determination has occurred.

Katrina victims who have evacuated to Indiana may be served as a dislocated worker. The Regulations at 20 CFR 663 Part 115b(2) indicate, “*Governors and Local Boards may establish policies and procedures for One-Stop operators to use in determining an individual’s eligibility as a dislocated worker, consistent with the definition at WIA section 101(9). These policies and procedures may address such conditions as: What constitutes ‘unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters’ for determining the eligibility of self-employed individuals, including family members and farm or ranch hands, under WIA section 101(9)(C).*” The Katrina victim must have a link to previous employment. Thus, if an individual has no pre-Katrina tie to the labor market s/he can not be served with Dislocated Worker funds. Section 101(9) of the Act links employment and dislocation in a way that does not allow someone who has not worked to be funded with WIA Dislocated Worker dollars.

For eligibility under Section 101(9)(A), DWD encourages local boards to work closely with UI staff and to revise the local definition of “unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation” to include Katrina victims. Also, remember that the spouse of an individual who is no longer employed due to Katrina may be considered a displaced homemaker.

The attached guide from DOL provides email addresses for duplicate copies. In addition, Selective Service’s web-site is www.sss.gov. Also, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security’s website for Hurricane Katrina Resources is www.dhs.gov/katrina

Questions concerning this TAB may be directed to Tony Collier, Director, Center of Excellence at 317/232-7595 or by email at tcollier@dwd.in.gov

WIA-TAB No	Subject Matter
2005-001	Incentive Payments to WIA Participants
2005-002	Incumbent Worker Councils
2005-003	High School Diplomas for Individuals with Disabilities
2005-004	General Studies Degrees
2005-005	Special Endorsement for Indiana School Bus Drivers
2005-006	Modifying Indiana's Eligible Training Provider List
2005-007	Documentation Requirements – Katrina Victims
2003-000	Workforce Investment Act Technical Bulletin
2003-001	WIA Citizenship and Registration for Selective Services
2003-002	Intensive and Training Services
2003-003	Service Tiers & Partner Services
2003-004	Temporary Employee Eligibility
2003-005	Driver's License as a Credential
2003-006	CPR or First Aid as a Credential
2003-007	Basic Skills Deficiency
2004-001	WorkKeys Certificates